

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and on packet bulletin boards.

### SILENT KEY

It is with regret that the Gizmo Amateur Radio Forum has to announce the passing away of Willem van Zyl, ZS1ON, on Friday 10 October at the age of 74 years. Willem was a radio amateur for more than 50 years and was for many years a member of the SARL.

SARL-news expresses its deepest condolence to his relatives and friends.

(PAUSE).

In the news today:

NATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO CENTRE - OPEN MORNING

SAATI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NEW ON THE SARL WEBSITE

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail:

NEW ON THE SARL WEBSITE

The SARL website now boasts a fairly comprehensive database of Amateur Radio equipment age and price data. With an easy to use interface you can now find out the approximate age of and item of equipment as well being able to get or post pricing information for the item either new or used.

Once this database becomes more comprehensive it will be a useful guide to South African radio amateurs in valuing radio equipment. Until now the only

information available has been on overseas websites in other currencies. This is a first for South Africa.

Data stored in the pricing database includes: Year of purchase, Whether the item was New or Used, if used what its condition was and of course the Purchase Price.

This database is slowly building up with the help of visitors to the site. We would encourage you to visit the database and contribute to the information for rigs that you have bought over time.

#### NATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO CENTRE - OPEN MORNING

The next open day at the National Amateur Radio Centre is again going to be a very interesting morning.

There is going to be a display of various types and kinds of kits that can be purchased and built up from scratch. Some of these kits include anything from power supplies and upwards.

The morning is being arranged by Gilles, ZR6GDC, who, in association with a distributor, will be there to display their wares and answer any questions and what else is available from them.

As usual, the office will be open for collection of QSL cards.

Come and join us and spend a morning among friends and interesting items. The ZS6OF memorial shack will also be open.

The NARC will be open from about 09:00 am and all are welcome to pay us a visit. The display will be open from 10:00 to 12:00 noon.

Remember, Saturday 1 November 2003.

#### CORRECTION TO SARL HF CW COMPETITION RESULTS

The following correction must be made to the results of the 2003 SARL HF CW Contest. The log of Vidi, ZS1EL, was received on time and Vidi made 170 points, placing him in a combined second place with Alan, ZS1AAX. Well done to all the participants.

#### COMMENTS ON THE ISSUE OF RETENTION OF CW IN USA

The following is an interesting comment extracted from the ARRL newsletter of a week ago on the whether CW should be retained or dropped as an requirement for amateur radio licensing in the USA:

Describing CW as “the purest, most accurate, efficient, reliable and economical form of radio communications ever devised,” Frank Napurano, K2OKA, requests that the FCC retain the 5 WPM Morse requirement “in the interest of public safety, the preservation of a radio art and as a tribute of support for a prized and respected avocation.”

There is a lot of truth in this one sentence.

### 73 MAGAZINE SAYS “73 AND QRT”

This news item has also been condensed from last week’s ARRL newsletter.

After completing 43 years of publication, 73 Amateur Radio Today magazine is calling it quits. According to self-proclaimed “El Supremo and Founder” Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD, it was a simple matter of economics.

The magazine was a pioneer promoter of SSB, FM, solid-state, easy construction projects and the marriage of personal computing and Amateur Radio.

At the peak of its popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, individual issues of 73 totaled more than 300 pages of ads, articles and commentary. Heading each issue was Green’s inimitable “Never Say Die”—some would say never-ending—editorial, in which he rarely missed an opportunity to tweak the ARRL and his magazine competitors for their perceived shortcomings.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says 73 published his first article in the 1970s. “I was saddened to hear that 73 has ceased publishing,” Ford said. “Wayne’s excitement about the growing amateur FM repeater phenomenon at the time was infectious.”

### SAATI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the South African Amateur Technology Institute (SAATI) was held on Saturday the 11th of October. In addition to the official business that had to be transacted, interesting technical demonstrations were held that were discussed in depth during the following social function. The demonstration on the 9600 baud packet operation drew a lot of attention.

The following members were elected to the management team: President: Louis Kruger, ZR6ABC; Secretary: Richard Peer, ZR6CK; Treasurer: Egbert Bege-man ZS6AZG; Other members of the management team: Ams Amsega ZS6YV, Barrie van Zyl, ZR6BVZ, Gawie Basson, ZR6GJJ, Mario Karny, ZS6KM, and Fritz Sutherland, ZS6ASF.

The meeting was not only attended by SAATI members. Many other amateurs attended, both those with a highly technical bent as well as those less technically minded but interested in new operating modes. There was a lot of good natured discussion on SAATI’s strategy for the future. Even though SAATI is financially very sound, the management team is worried about the lack of younger, technically orientated members.

It was found that the new clubhouse in Alkantrand, shared between SAATI and two amateur radio clubs, is most definitely an asset to the organisation.

If you are interested in SAATI’s activities, phone Ams, ZS6YV, on 012 664 3629 or Fritz, ZS6ASF, on 012 997 1114 or on 083 304 0028 or send an email to [zs6asf@icon.co.za](mailto:zs6asf@icon.co.za).

### CENTURION ARC NOV MEETING

The committee of the Centurion Amateur Radio Club extends an invitation to all past and present club members to attend the club's next monthly meeting which will take place on the 1st Novemberin at 14:00 in the Wierda Park Scout Hall which is situated at the corner of Willem Botha and Springbok streets, Wierda Park.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Special event station GB50RAEN 20 to 31 October. The cut off date for membership renewals is 31 October. NARC open morning on the 1st November. Centurion Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting also on the 1st November.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX